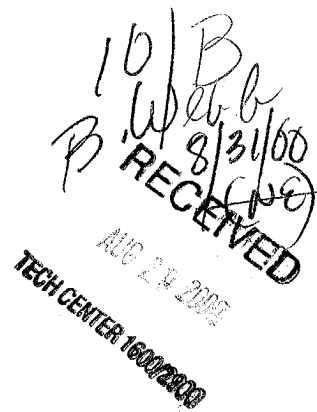


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Ellen M. Heath *et al.*
Serial No. : 09/241,636
Filed : February 2, 1999
For : PROCESSES FOR ISOLATING, AMPLIFYING AND
CHARACTERIZING DNA

Attorney Docket No. : 5253



RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

This is a response to the outstanding office action, dated February 24, 2000.

Claims 1-62 remain pending in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claim 11.

Please add the following claims

54. A process for characterizing DNA comprising [the] a step of isolating nucleic acids, wherein the step of isolating comprises the steps of:
- (a) contacting a biological material that contains DNA with a solid support treated with a lysing reagent wherein the solid support has not contacted the biological material at the time of treatment;

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